

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
May 7, 2003**

Jim Whittington (Bandelier National Monument) distributed a map showing the perimeter of the Cajete Fire. This fire burned 32 acres. Jim noted that the heavy fuels were so dry that they burned down to ash. Jim also reported that the Bandelier National Monument is beginning the internal scoping process for the Monument's Fire Management Plan. Finally, Jim is concerned about the amount of debris in the drainages in the Quemazon development area.

Todd Haagenstad (Ecology Group, LANL) reported that DOE guidance to the DOE Order 450.1 and to a DOE memorandum on Wildfire Management Policy has been received and is being reviewed for the best approach to implementation.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) stated that LANL is a working facility. The implementation of fire management policy must consider facilities and buildings. Doug also reported that a contract was signed this week to continue work on the Los Alamos townsite defensible space project. This project was designed under the assumption that Los Alamos Canyon, DP Canyon and Rendija Canyon will be treated to reduce fuels and fire hazards.

Darroll Abeyta (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that a decision regarding the Valle II project will be signed within one or two weeks. Darroll also reported that 250 acres of treated forest in the Santa Fe Watershed need to be prescribed burned, if possible.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) announced that the Los Alamos County Defensible Space Project continues to progress as planned.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) stated that if certain wildfire scenarios were to occur, immediate evacuation from known safety zones would not be initiated, in preference for remaining at the safety zones.

Ed Hoth (Utilities and Infrastructure, LANL) remarked that if rehabilitation at LANL is terminated, the erosion rates will increase.

Rob Farris (Fire Protection Group, LANL) distributed an alert of restrictions related to the recent wildland fire conditions. This alert includes a matrix of work restrictions that would apply under specific fire danger ratings and wind conditions. The current alert does not restrict recreational access.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) will participate in the 2003 Southwest Drought Summit in Flagstaff, Arizona. This summit will take place next week.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported through the LANL Fire Danger Estimate notification system that the fire danger levels at LANL are very high, and could be extreme by the end of the week. Red Flag conditions can be expected. The

1-hour and 10-hour fuel moistures are from 4 percent to 5 percent. The 1000-hour fuel moistures range from 6 percent to 10 percent.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, May 21, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.